A15WX WR - S 25 NOV 1964 1255 ACS 2 AES

(300) PMS BUDGET

OSWALD

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WASHINGTON, NOV. 25 (AP)-FROM THE TIME HE SET OUT FOR RUSSIA IN SEPTEMBER 1959 UNTIL HE RETURNED HOME THREE YEARS LATER, LEE HARVEY OSWALD SAW FEW AMERICANS OTHER THAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

BUT THOSE HE SAW REMEMBER SOMETHING OF THE SULLEN LONELINESS THAT SEEMED TO SET HIM APART FROM OTHER MEN.

THE FREIGHTER S. S. MARION LYKES, BOUND FROM NEW ORLEANS TO LE HAVRE, CARRIED ONLY FOUR PASSENGERS: A RETIRED ARMY COLONEL AND HIS WIFE, A YOUNG STUDENT OFF TO FRANCE TO BEGIN HIS COLLEGE STUDIES AND OSWALD.

GEORGE B. CHURCH JR., THE RETIRED COLONEL, REMEMBERED OSWALD TO THE WARREN COMMISSION AS AN UNSOCIABLE, WITHDRAWN PASSENGER WHO WAS SEASICK QUITE A BIT DURING THE 16-DAY JOURNEY AND WHO, IN HIS BRIEF CONVERSATIONS, BITTERLY DESCRIBED THE HARD TIMES HIS MOTHER HAD DURING THE DEPRESSION.

THE COLONEL'S WIFE MADE AN ATTEMPT TO GET TO KNOW THE RECLUSIVE PASSENGER, BUT WAS REPELLED AND EVEN HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING HIS ADDRESS FOR HER CHRISTMAS CARD LIST. SHE LENT HIM A BOOK, WHICH HE NEVER RETURNED, THEN LEFT HIM TO THE CONVERSATIONAL CARE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, WHO SEEMED TO FEEL THAT OSWALD WAS "A SMART BOY."

BILLY JOE LORD, THE STUDENT WHO WAS OSWALD'S CABIN MATE ON THE FREIGHTER, FOUND HIM "A NORMAL, HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL, MENTALLY ALERT, BUT EXTREMELY CYNICAL." NEITHER WAS AN OUTGOING TYPE, SO CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEM WAS SPARSE. LORD RECALLED OSWALD'S BITTERNESS "ABOUT THE FACT HIS MOTHER HAD TO WORK IN A DRUG STORE IN FORT WORTH" AND ONCE HEARD HIS VIEWS ON RELIGION.

A16WX

"I DO NOT KNOW WHY WE DISCUSSED RELIGION," LORD TOLD THE COMMISSION, "EXCEPT THAT POSSIBLY HE NOTICED THAT I HAD A BIBLE. OSWALD COULD NOT SEE HOW I COULD BELIEVE IN GOD IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SCIENCE HAD DISPROVED THE EXISTENCE OF GOD AND THAT THERE WAS ONLY MATTER."

ALL THREE PASSENGERS THOUGHT OSWALD WAS HEADING TO A UNIVERSITY, POSSIBLY IN SWITZERLAND. THEY HAD NO IDEA HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO DEFECT TO RUSSIA. LORD DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL A MONTH LATER WHEN HIS MOTHER SENT HIM A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM HOME.

PRISCILLA JOHNSON, A REPORTER FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER ALLIANCE, INTERVIEWED OSWALD FOR MORE THAN FIVE HOURS IN HER ROOM IN THE METROPOLE HOTEL IN MOSCOW ON A NOVEMBER EVENING IN 1959, SHORTLY AFTER HE HAD ANNOUNCED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HIS INTENTION OF RENOUNCING HIS CITIZENSHIP.

SHE FOUND HIM SECRETIVE, ELUSIVE, LEGALISTIC IN TRYING TO FRAME HIS RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP SO AS TO LEAVE A LOOPHOLE FOR LATER GETTING IT BACK AND, AS AN INTERVIEW SUBJECT, COMPLETELY CAPTIVATING.

SHE WAS REMINDED OF THE LOST GENERATION OF INTELLECTUALS WHO HAD COME TO RUSSIA IN THE 1930S.

"HERE OSWALD WAS OF AN AGE THAT MADE HIM DIFFERENT RIGHT AWAY. HE WAS ONLY 20, AND I HAD NEVER HEARD OF ANYBODY OF THAT AGE IN THE FIRST PLACE OR THAT GENERATION TAKING AN IDEOLOGICAL INTEREST TO THE POINT WHERE HE WOULD DEFECT. HIS AGE MADE HIM EXTRAORDINARY."

IN MINSK, WHERE HE WORKED IN A RADIO TELEVISION FACTORY, OSWALD APPARENTLY BRUSHED THE LIVES OF THREE AMERICAN TOURISTS.

A17WX

ON A WARM AUGUST MORNING IN 1961 MONICA KRAMER AND RITA NAAM, NAMAN BOTH FROM SOLVANG, CALIF., DROVE INTO THE TOWN SQUARE IN A NEWLY PURCHASED ENGLISH CAR AND TOOK SOME SNAPSHOTS IN FRONT OF THE PALACE OF CULTURE.

WHILE THEY WERE SO ENGAGED, THE INTOURIST PEOPLE WERE GOING THROUGH THEIR LUGGAGE BACK AT THE HOTEL. THIS CERTAINLY WAS SOMETHING TO TELL THE FOLKS ABOUT BACK HOME.

THEY NEVER GAVE A SECOND THOUGHT TO THE THREE MEN WHO APPEARED DIMLY IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE PICTURE. NOT UNTIL MUCH, MUCH LATER, WHEN THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE, IN THE DARK TROUSERS AND SHORT-SLEEVED PLAID SHIRT, TURNED OUT TO HAVE A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO THE MAN CALLED LEE HARVEY OSWALD WHOSE PICTURE WAS EVERYWHERE IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

ALSO IN MINSK, A FEW MONTHS EARLIER, YOUNG KATHRINE MALLORY OF ENDICOTT, N.Y., CAME TO TOWN WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SYMPHONY BAND. HURRYING BACK TO THE HOTEL ONE NIGHT AFTER A TALENT SHOW PUT ON BY STUDENTS AT THE POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE, SHE WAS MOBBED BY RUSSIAN STUDENTS POPPING QUESTIONS AT HER. OUT OF THE CROWD, "AN EX-MARINE FROM TEXAS" APPROACHED AND OFFERED HIS SERVICES AS AN INTERPRETER.

WROTE KATHY HOME TO MOTHER, "I MET A YOUNG MAN, PROBABLY 26 WHO IS FROM TEXAS BUT AFTER THE WAR HE BECAME A CITIZEN OF MINSK. IT WAS RATHER WEIRD MEETING AN EX-AMERICAN BUT HE DID COME IN HANDY AS AN INTERPRETER."

RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES ON THE HOLLAND-AMERICAN LINER MAASDAM, OSWALD PENNED A CONFUSED, HEAVILY MISSPELLED POLITICAL TREATISE ON SHIP'S STATIONERY OUTLINING HIS DISILLUSIONMENT WITH BOTH CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM.

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"I HAVE LIVED," HE WROTE, "UNDER BOTH SYSTEMS, I HAVE SOUGHT THE ANSWERS AND ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE VERY EASY TO DUPE MYSELF INTO BELIEVING ONE SYSTEM IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER, I KNOW THEY ARE NOT."

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